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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY East Germany

TOPIC Military Shipments in the Gardelegen-Letzling Heath Area

50X1

EVALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

50X1-HUM

DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED]

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 14 October 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS [REDACTED] 50X1

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1. Troop trains observed in the Gardelegen-Letzling Heath area on 1 October 1953 included a train of 3 flatcars and 4 boxcars, carrying 3 x 122-mm field howitzers and 4 trucks, passing through Gross Behnitz, coming from the direction of Wustermark and proceeding toward Stendal, at 3:33 p.m.;¹ and a train of 22 flatcars and 16 boxcars carrying an infantry unit with 36 trucks, 18 motorcycles, 4 command cars, 1 amphibious car and 1 jeep, passing through Demker, and proceeding toward Magdeburg at 6:11 p.m.

2. The following troops and materiel were loaded at the places indicated on 1 and 2 October.

1 October. Two tanks on a train of 31 flatcars in Mahlwinkel at 6:36 p.m. Sixty-two motor vehicles were seen en route to the station, probably for entraining.

Nine trucks in Wolmirstedt at 11:01 p.m.

2 October. One van-like truck, 21 trucks, 2 field kitchens and 2 x 76.2-mm field guns on a train of 14 flatcars and 8 boxcars in Demker at 0:40 a.m.

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Two van-like trucks, 2 command cars, 2 motorcycles, 1 field kitchen and 12 trucks

[REDACTED] on a train of 13 flatcars and 7 boxcars with infantrymen, which left toward Magdeburg at 4:15 a.m.

One command car and 11 trucks,

[REDACTED] on a train of 12 flatcars and 3 boxcars in Wolmirstedt at 7:51 a.m. Two 76.2-mm field guns,

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2 x 82-mm mortars, 3 field kitchens, 8 command cars, 1 van-like truck and 37 trucks,

[REDACTED] on a train of 24 flatcars and 16 boxcars in Mahlwinkel at 5:31 a.m.

Nine JS tanks, [REDACTED] 2 motorcycles and 4 command cars on a

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train of 37 flatcars in Tangerhuetten at 8:41 a.m. Ammunition boxes and 22

trucks [REDACTED] at 4 p.m.

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Four 76.2-mm field guns, 2 x 82-mm mortars, 6 command cars, 2 field kitchens, 4 rocket launchers and 31 trucks,

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on a train of 32 flatcars in Denker at 8:55 a.m. Forty-seven trucks were seen en route to the station.

Four 76.2-mm field guns, 5 command cars, 3 field kitchens and van-like trucks, and 27 trucks,

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in Stendal at 9:09 a.m. and, subsequently, 4 x 76.2-mm field guns, 2 x 82-mm mortars, 4 motorcycles, 2 field kitchens, 1 van-like truck, and 41 trucks,

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Seven trucks, 2 command cars, 1 amphibious car, 1 jeep and 2 motorcycles on a train of 18 flatcars and 4 boxcars with infantrymen in Tangermünde at 10:26 a.m.

Two SP guns with T-34 chassis, 8 x 76.2-mm field guns, 3 x 82-mm mortars, 4 command cars, 1 amphibious vehicle, 1 jeep, 2 field kitchens, 1 van-like truck and 36 trucks

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with the latter two towing field guns, in Stendal at 11:30 a.m. All shipments were escorted by officers and EM, 2

1. Comment. The train may have gone to Altengrabow.

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2. Comment. these 14 trains carried units of the Third Shock Army, most of which presumably belonged to the IX Mtz Rifle Corps. These units, between 24 and 27 September, had transferred to the Schoenhausen-Jerichow-Genthin area on more than 20 trains. The loading stations mentioned tend to indicate that the exercises included a crossing of the Elbe River from east to west. The shipments toward Magdeburg presumably involved units of the 207th Mtz Rifle Div from Quedlinburg, transferring to exercises, probably also in the north section of Letzling Heath.

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The loadings in Wolmirstedt may have involved units of the 19th Gds Mecz Div, which returned to Magdeburg from exercises in the north section of Letzling Heath. It is, however, noted that

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units of the 10th Gds Tank Div were entrained, although rear details of the division, in late September, transferred from Satz Korn to the north section of Letzling Heath on 10 trains and return shipments to Satz Korn from Mahlwinkel and Tangerhütte were observed on 30 September.

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